

Message Text

MRN: 1973SAIGON010002 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000001 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX

FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

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ADP000

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 PM-03

DODE-00 IO-03 RSR-01 L-02 EUR-10 DPW-01 /070 W

----- 000374

O R 051115 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2700

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 4 SAIGON 10002

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y -- PARA VIII PARA 2 --

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4. ONE OF THE MININGS OCCURRED ON RAILROAD ABOUT 11 KMS NORTHWEST OF TUY AN DISTRICT TOWN, PHU YEN, WHERE VC MINE DESTROYED FIVE METERS OF TRACK AND WOUNDED ONE INDIVIDUAL ON REPAIR TRAIN. TRAIN ITSELF WAS NOT DAMANGED AND PHU YEN SECTOR REPORTS THAT TRACK WAS COMPLETELY REPAIRED SEVERAL HOURS AFTER INCIDENT. THIS IS NEAR POINT

AT WHICH RAILROAD SERVICE NORTH OF TUY HOA TERMINATES DUE TO LACK OF
SECURITY. THE CURRENT GVN EFFORT TO REOPEN THE RAILROAD NORTHWARD
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TO QUI NHON HAS BEEN NOTED IN PREVIOUS SITREPS.

5. MR 2 REPRESENTATIVE FOR PEOPLE'S INFORMATION TOLD CONOFF JUNE 5
THAT HE RECEIVED SAIGON DIRECTIVE ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO TO CONCENTRATE
NEW PROPAGANDA, SLOGANS, BANNERS, SIGNS, ETC. ON THREE SUBJECTS:
GVN'S ADMINISTRATIVE REVOLUTION (" OFFICIALS ARE SERVANTS OF THE
PEOPLE") RECONSTRUCTION; AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. FORMER GVN
PROPAGAN-
DA DISPLAYS, FEATURING PREDOMINATELY ANTI- COMMUNIST SLOGANS, WILL BE
USED UNTIL THEY ARE NO LONGER SERVICEABLE (E. G., TOO WEATHERED TO READ)

AND THEN REPLACED WITH THE NEW MATERIAL.

PART VIII: MR-3

1. IN THE 24 HOURS ENDING 0800 HOURS 5 JUNE THERE WERE 25 SEPARATE
INCIDENTS IN MR-3 CONSISTING OF 6 LIGHT HARASSING ATTACKS BY FIRE,
8 GROUND ATTACKS, 2 SNIPER ATTACKS AND 9 MINE/ BOOBY TRAP INCI-
DENTS. CASUALTIES FOR THE DAY WERE 5 GVN KILLED AND 32 WOUNDED
INCLUDING 7 CIVILIANS, WHILE KNOWN COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE 2 KILLED.
TONLE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP RECEIVED 76 ROUNDS OF MIXED
ARTILLERY WITHOUT REPORTED CASUALTIES.

2. MR-3 CG LTG MINH TOLD HIS TOP COMMANDERS IN JUNE 4
STRATEGY SESSION ATTENDED BY CONGEN, TO PREPARE FOR COMMUNIST
LAND- AND- PEOPLE GRAB BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 8, WHICH MINH AND
OTHER GVN OFFICIALS BELIEVE TO BE DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF
" REAL CEASE- FIRE." MINH CITED REPORTS OF RECENT EASTWARD MOVE-
MENTS OF MAIN FORCE UNITS AND POW INTERROGATIONS AS EVIDENCE OF
COMMUNIST INTENTIONS. HE THOUGHT COMMUNISTS MIGHT BE PARTI-
CULARLY ACTIVE IN TAY NINH, WHERE THEY HAVE AMMO BUNKERS AND
TWO 105 HOWITZERS IN AND AROUND NUI BA DEN, AND WHERE INTELLI-
GENCE REPORTS INDICATE COMMUNISTS HOPE TO ACQUIRE REAL ESTATE
CLOSE TO CAO DAI HOLY SEE. MINH WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT BINH
DUONG, WHERE NVA 9 TH DIVISION HAS REPORTEDLY LOCATED HQ IN
BEN CAT DISTRICT. HE EXPECTS THAT HAU NGHIA, PHUOC TUY, AND
BIEN HOA PROVINCES WILL BE SECONDARY COMMUNIST TARGETS AND
THAT COMMUNIST MAIN FORCE ELEMENTS WILL CONCENTRATE ON INTERDICT-
ING MAIN HIGHWAYS WHILE LOCAL FORCES CARRY BRUNT OF LAND- GRAB LOAD.
MINH ORDERED HIS COMMANDERS TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL AND TO YIELD NO
PEOPLE AND NOT AN INCH; NEXT FOUR OR FIVE DAYS MAY BE CRUCIAL FOR
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RVN, HE STRESSED. (SEE BIEN HOA 166 (NOTAL) FOR FULL REPORT.)

3. ICCS SOURCE CONFIRMS REPORT FROM GVN SOURCE THAT CU CHI BASE WAS SHELLED 1715-1730 SUNDAY JUNE 3. SHELLS LANDED NOT FAR FROM ICCS CU CHI TEAM HEADQUARTERS, BUT NO ICCS PERSONNEL WERE HURT, AND ICCS PLANS TO INVESTIGATE. (CONGEN BIEN HOA COMMENT: COMMUNIST SHELLING OF CU CHI, FOLLOWING CLOSELY ON COMMUNIST SAPPER ATTACK ON LONG BINH POST NEAR ICCS REGION V HQ, SUGGESTS THAT COMMUNISTS ARE LOSING EVEN REMAINING INHIBITIONS ABOUT CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS WHICH ARE BLATANTLY OBVIOUS TO ICCS. IN THIS CONNECTION, BIEN HOA PROVINCE CHIEF COLONEL CHINH MORNING JUNE 5 EXPRESSED TO AM REP HIS GUT FEELING THAT COMMUNISTS MIGHT SOON ROCKET BIEN HOA AIR BASE, WHICH THEY HAVE NOT DONE SINCE CEASE- FIRE AND WHICH IS LOCATION OF ICCS POINT OF ENTRY TEAM AND IS ALSO CLOSE TO ICCS REGION V HQ. WE DO NOT RULE OUT COMMUNIST ROCKET ATTACK ON BHAB TO FOUL UP VNAF AIR SUPPORT FOR GROUND FORCES ATTEMPTING TO TURN BACK LARGE- SCALE COMMUNIST ATTACKS, IF INDEED COMMUNISTS PLANNING SUCH ATTACKS. END COMMENT.)

4. BINH DUONG AM REP REPORTS MORNING JUNE 5 THAT COMMUNISTS HAVE CLOSED INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 1- A BETWEEN PHU CUONG AND PHU GIAO. NATIONAL HIGHWAY 13 BETWEEN PHU CUONG AND LAI KHE IS " AMBER." GVN INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS BELIEVE THERE ARE ELEMENTS OF 5 TH, 7 TH, AND 9 TH COMMUNIST MAIN FORCE DIVISIONS IN BINH DUONG POISED TO ATTACK. AM REP THINKS THE COMMUNISTS WILL TRY TO INTERDICT THE MAIN HIGHWAY AND ATTACK TRI TAM, BEN CAT, AND PHU GIAO DISTRICT TOWNS: BUT HE ALSO THINKS GVN FORCES ARE READY FOR THEM.

5. ICCS XUAN LOC' S INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED GVN CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS IN LONG KHANH AND PHUOC TUY IS STILL STALLED, ACCORDING TO POLOFF IN BA RIA. XUAN LOC ICCS JUNE 4 RECEIVED COPY OF MAY 29 LETTER FROM GVN TPJMC STATING THAT GVN WOULD NOT APPOINT LIAISON OFFICER TO GO ALONG WITH ICCS BECAUSE OF RECENT PRG TREATMENT OF GVN LIAISON OFFICER AT LOC NINH. ASIDE FROM TIT- FOR- TAT ASPECT OF GVN REFUSAL, AND DESPITE FACT THAT ALLEGED GVN VIOLATION OCCURRED IN FEBRUARY, POLOFF THINKS GVN IS WORRIED ABOUT WHAT ICCS MIGHT FIND OUT ALONG ROUTE 2, I. E., ARVN- INITIATED CLEARING OPERATIONS.

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6. AFTER JUNE 4 SHOOTDOWN OF VNAF HELICOPTER NEAR NUI BA DEN IN TAY NINH, REPORTED JUNE 4 SITREP, TAY NINH PROVINCE CHIEF COLONEL THIEN ORDERED RF TROOPS TO GUARD WRECKAGE AND TELEPHONED ICCS CU CHI, BUT IT WAS WEEKEND AND NO ONE WAS THERE. AS OF AFTERNOON JUNE 4, TROOPS WERE STILL GUARDING WRECKAGE AND PROVINCE CHIEF HAD NOT HEARD FROM ICCS. HE HAS ARRANGEMENT IN WHICH HE CAN TELEPHONE ICCS CU CHI TO COME UP AND DO IMMEDIATE " INSPECTION" AFTER ALLEGED VIOLATION OCCURS, BUT SO FAR, IT HAS

NEVER WORKED.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 PM-03

DODE-00 IO-03 RSR-01 L-02 EUR-10 DPW-01 /070 W
----- 126078

O R 051115 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2701

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 4 SAIGON 10002

LIMDIS

PART IX: MR-4

1. MR-4 REPORTED 56 VC/ NVA INITIATED INCIDENTS JUNE 4, UP FROM THE PREVIOUS DAY' S 30. THERE WERE EIGHT GROUND ASSAULTS, AN AMBUSH, 39 ATTACKS BY FIRE, SIX HARASSMENTS, AND TWO ACTS OF SABOTAGE UPON BRIDGES IN DINH TUONG (SEE BELOW). DINH TUONG ALSO EXPERIENCED FOUR GROUND ASSAULTS, WITH THREE MORE OCCURRING IN CHUONG THIEN. FRIENDLY FORCES LOST 51 KILLED IN ACTION, 163

WOUNDED, AND 13 MISSING. ARVN SPOKESMEN CLAIMED 161 VC/ NVA
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DEAD AND SIX CAPTURED.

2. VC FLOATING MINES DAMAGED TWO BRIDGES IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE WITHIN FIFTEEN MINUTES OF EACH OTHER DURING THE NIGHT OF JUNE 4. ONE BRIDGE, ON THE SAM GIANG- CAI LAY DISTRICT BORDER, SUSTAINED 30 PER CENT DAMAGE. IN THE OTHER INCIDENT, A GUARD ON A BRIDGE IN PHU PHONG VILLAGE, SAM GIANG DISTRICT FIRED ON A FLOATING OBJECT WHICH EXPLODED. THE BRIDGE WAS 60 PER CENT DAMAGED.

3. AN XUYEN AUTHORITIES HAVE PLACED THE PROVINCE UNDER ALERT ANTICIPATING A VC HIGHPOINT JUNE 6, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A " REAL " CEASE- FIRE. THE PROVINCE CHIEF FEARS THE VC WILL BEGIN AN ELEVENTH HOUR DRIVE TO SEIZE TERRITORY, AS THEY DID AT THE TIME OF THE JANUARY 28 CEASE- FIRE. AN XUYEN IS THE FIFTH DELTA PROVINCE REPORTED UNDER ALERT FOR A VC/ NVA FLAREUP IN EARLY JUNE. (EMBASSY COMMENT: REGION- WIDE PRECAUTIONARY ALERTS HAVE BEEN DELCARED IN MR' S 1, 2, AND 3; IT APPEARS THAT MOST OF THE DELTA IS ALSO BY NOW PROBABLY ON ALERT. END COMMENT.)

4. THE ACTION RELATED ABOVE IN DINH TUONG MAY BE RELATED TO GVN TROOP REDEPLOYMENTS IN THE PROVINCE WHICH ARE UNDERWAY WITH AN EVENTUAL AIM OF REOCCUPYING TRI PHAP VILLAGE IN NEIGHBORING SOUTHWESTERN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE (SEE SAIGON 9 873, JUNE 2-4 SITREP). TRI PHAP IS THE ONLY PORTION OF COMMUNIST BASE AREA 470 UNDER UNCONTESTED PRG CONTROL. TRI PHAP IS ALSO THE ONLY NORTHERN DELTA AREA WHICH MR-4 OFFICIALS EVEN UNOFFICIALLY CONCEDE TO THE PRG. THE ARVN OPERATION BEGAN MAY 28 WHEN 7 TH AND 9 TH ARVN DIVISIONS COMMENCED UNIT MOVEMENTS AIMED AT FREEING THE 9 TH DIVISION' S 14 TH REGIMENT FOR OPERATIONS IN BASE AREA 470.

5. CONGEN CAN THO NOTES THAT THE NVA HAS CONTROLLED TRI PHAP SINCE APRIL, 1972, WHEN THE NVA OVERAN EIGHT GVN OUTPOSTS. THE GVN HAS SINCE REOCCUPIED NONE. CONGEN CAN THO FURTHER COMMENTS THAT THE MOVE AGAINST TRI PHAP REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT ARVN REDEPLOYMENT ON THE EVE OF AN ANTICIPATED " REAL " CEASE- FIRE; IT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS A DEFENSIVE MANUEVER, BUT MAY ALSO BE DSGINED TO PERMANENTLY SECURE THE AREA FOR THE GVN. THE SEVERE DEFEAT SUFFERED BY ARVN UNITS JUNE 3 IN THIS AREA INDICATES THE DIFFICULT TASK FACING THE GVN IN THIS FIERCELY DEFENDED
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AREA AND MAY FORETELL HEAVY FIGHTING IN DAYS AHEAD. (SEPTTEL HAS FULL ACCOUNT.)

6. CONGEN CAN THO ALSO REPORTS THAT MR-4 CG MGENERAL NGHI HAS EXPANDED THE 9 TH DIVISION' S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY TO INCLUDE PHONG DINH AND A SMALL SLIVER OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CORNER OF CHUONG THIEN PROVINCES IN RESPONSE TO A RECENTLY UNCOVERED THREAT OF VC/ NVA ATTACK IN THIS AREA. THE 9 TH DIVISION' S MISSION IS TO SEARCH OUT AND DESTROY THE MAIN FORCE D-1 REGIMENT AND THE TAY DO 1 LOCAL FORCE BATTALION, AND TO SECURE HIGHWAYS 4 AND 31. CONGEN CAN THO COMMENTS THAT THIS IS THE SECOND SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN DIVISIONAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN PAST SEVERAL DAYS, THE OTHER BEING THAT IN DINH TUONG REFERRED TO IN PARAS 4 AND 5 ABOVE. IT IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT THE AREA OF CHUONG THIEN IN WHICH THE 9 TH DIVISION NOW WILL PRESUMABLY BE OPERATING IS ALSO ALMOST PRECISELY THAT WHICH OFFICERS OF THE 21 ST ARVN DIVISION PREVIOUSLY TOLD CONGEN REPS THE GVN HAD (AGAIN UNOFFICIALLY) CONCEDED TO THE COMMUNISTS. (SEPTTEL HAS FULL REPORT.)

7. AT MAY 11 MEETING WITH HIS TACTICAL COMMA

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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